

Lehmann et al '494 relates to a process for producing polyureas by reacting a diisocyanate in a solvent with an aqueous solution of a diamine salt in the presence of alkali. Similarly, Lehmann et al '852 discloses reacting, in the presence of a lower aliphatic alcohol, a diprimary aliphatic diamine containing in the carbon chain one or several secondary amino groups with a diisocyanate or a glycol-bis-chlorocarbonate.

In both of these references, the amine reactant is not disclosed, nor can it be, isophorone diamine. Note the diamines disclosed at column 2, lines 29-35 and in the examples of Lehmann et al '494, nor are the diprimary aliphatic diamines containing in the carbon chain one or several secondary amino groups within the scope of the present claims.

Anticipation within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102, requiring complete identity in the prior art, manifestly is not present. IPD is neither disclosed by the reference, nor within its scope.

Also, the claimed invention is not obvious from the art cited by the Examiner, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner relies on Blum or Tirpak to assertedly make obvious Applicants' discovery. However, in neither of these secondary references is there any teaching or suggestion of using IPD as a diamine. None of the polyamino compounds disclosed by Blum at column 3, lines 44-55, suggest or are comparable to IPD. Similarly, the polyamines disclosed by Tirpak et al having at least two primary and/or secondary amino groups and a molecular weight of at least 1,000 are not comparable to, nor suggest IPD. Further, even if the secondary references are combined with Lehmann et al, Applicants' discovery is not made obvious thereby, no suggestion of using IPD as an amine being present in any of the references.

The Examiner at page 4 of his Action states:

Furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of MPEP 2144.03, the position is taken that it has long been known within the art that the use of

nonaromatic reactants is preferred for use within coatings, since the nonaromatic reactants do not possess the yellowing characteristics of the aromatic reactants.

However, even if such, arguendo, is the case, the claimed invention is not obvious.

The uses disclosed by Lehmann et al '494 at column 2, lines 45-53 and by Lehmann et al '852 at column 2, lines 24-44 are those in which these characteristics would not be considered significant or pertinent. In any event, Applicants traverse such assertion by the Examiner, consistent with MPEP 2144.03, requesting him to cite prior art supporting such conclusion, particularly in a specific system as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 thus is requested.

With regard to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, they have been amended in a manner believed to overcome these rejections.

Should any further amendment to the claims be considered necessary by the Examiner, he is requested to telephonically contact the undersigned so that mutually agreeable language may be arrived at.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, thus is requested.

Applicants further state that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time the invention covered thereby was made.

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and which is solicited.

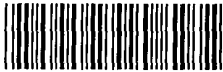
Respectfully submitted,

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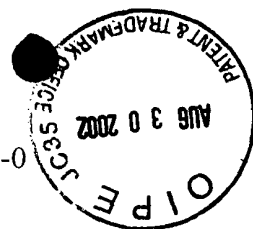


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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A polyurea, comprising the reaction product of isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), isocyanurates thereof [and] or combination of these materials with [amines] isophorone diamine (IPD), the polyurea having a NCO/NH₂ ratio of 0.9 to 1.1 to 1 [and an average molecular weight of at least 5000].

10. (Amended) A process for preparing polyureas as claimed in Claim 1, comprising:

reacting IPDI, HDI, [their] isocyanurates thereof or combinations of these materials [and mixtures thereof] with isophorone diamine (IPD) [amines] in a solvent, [to which] the isocyanate also optionally being diluted [optionally] with a solvent[, is added with stirring];

heating the reaction medium for 2 to 3 hours in refluxing solvent and then cooling the reaction medium; and

separating the resulting polymer and then drying the polymer for 3 to 6 hours at 130 to 170°C in a vacuum.--